

### Remarks

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) as complying with a requirement of form for claims 10, 15-16, 18, 21, and 48 as set forth in the Advisory Action and as canceling the non-allowed claims 9, 33, and 38-41.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application. Claims 1-8, 10-32, and 35-37 and 42-48 remain in this application. Claims 10, 15-16, 18, 21, and 48 are amended. Claims 9, 33, and 38-41 have been canceled. Only claims previously indicated as allowable remain in this Application.

#### I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the previous notification of allowance of claims 1-8, 12-14, 27-29, and 35-37.

Applicants also note with appreciation the previous notification that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. To that end, claim 21 has been amended to independent form.

Applicants appreciate the notification in the Advisory Action that amended dependent claims 10, 15-16, 18, and 48 along with un-amended dependent claims 11, 17, and 19-20, which now ultimately depend from allowable independent claim 21, would be allowable if submitted in conjunction with an amendment canceling the non-allowed claims. To that end, non-allowed claims 33 and 38-41 have been canceled.

Applicants also appreciate the notification in the Advisory Action that claims 22-26, 30-32, and 42-47 are allowed.

#### II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and these remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

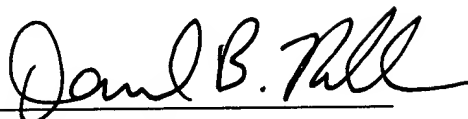
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Serial No.: 09/483,117  
Page 13

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Ruble", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel B. Ruble  
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Date: November 4, 2003